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FORE THE ARMADON FOR PORTION COMMISSION DOCKETED WILLIAM A. MUNDELL Chairman MAR 3 0 2001 3 JIM IRVIN Commissioner DOCKETED BY **MARC SPITZER** Commissioner 5 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION DOCKET NOS. T-01051B-01-0041 OF OWEST CORPORATION F/K/A U S WEST T-03054A-01-0041 COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL DECISION NO. 63505 OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE, INC. **ORDER** 9 10 Open Meeting March 27 and 28, 2001 11 Phoenix, Arizona BY THE COMMISSION: 12 FINDINGS OF FACT 13 1. On January 11, 2001, Owest Corporation ("Owest"), f/k/a U S WEST 14 15 Communications, Inc., filed an application for approval of the First Amendment to the 16 Interconnection Agreement between Qwest and Electric Lightwave, Inc. ("ELI"). The original 17 Interconnection Agreement was approved by the Commission on September 18, 2000, in Decision 18 No. 62902. 2. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act"), directed incumbent local 19 20 exchange carriers to make their networks available for interconnection and resale by new entrants 21 to the local exchange market. The 1996 Act provides for interconnection and resale agreements to 22 be concluded by voluntary negotiation. 3. This First Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest and ELI 23 24 was voluntarily negotiated, without resort to arbitration. Under the terms of this First Amendment, terms, conditions and rates for Portability 25 26 Managed Cuts are added as set forth in this amendment.

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According to the 1996 Act, the Commission must approve voluntarily negotiated 5. 2 interconnection and resale agreements, if their provisions are non-discriminatory and in the public 3 linterest.

- Staff has reviewed the First Amendment and finds it to be non-discriminatory and in 6. 5 the public interest. Qwest is offering the same terms and conditions of the Agreement to all other 6 linterested parties. The Agreement is in the public interest because it will act to further competition in the local exchange market in Arizona.
- 7. Since there are no grounds for rejection of the First Amendment pursuant to Section 9 252(e)(2)(A), of the 1996 Act, Staff has recommended that the Commission approve the First 10 Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest and ELI.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Owest is an Arizona public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV, Section 2, of the Arizona Constitution.
- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over ELI and over the subject matter of the Application.
- The Commission, having reviewed the Application and Staff's Memorandum has determined that the First Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement negotiated between Owest and ELI meets the requirements of Section 252(e)(2)(A), of the 1996 Act, which governs the approval of voluntarily-negotiated agreements and is in the public interest.
- 4. The Commission maintains jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Agreement and Amendments thereof, to the extent permitted pursuant to the powers granted the Commission by the Arizona Constitution, Statutes, Commission Rule, and the 1996 Act and the Rules promulgated thereunder.

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